

**City of Rockford**  
**Community Development Department**

**PUBLIC HEARING**  
**CONCERNING**

**Fifth Year of**  
**Five Year Consolidated Plan**

**Thursday, August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2013 – 12:00 PM**  
**Katie's Cup**  
**502 7th Street**

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**MINUTES**

**I. Welcome**

Dwayne Collins, Grants Compliance Specialist for the City of Rockford, introduced himself and welcomed everyone. He explained that this public hearing is regarding the Consolidated Plan. The programs include the Community Development Block Grant, HOME Investment Partnership Program and the Emergency Shelter Grant.

**II. 2010-2014 City of Rockford Consolidated Plan: 2013 Action Plan**

- The 2010 – 2014 City of Rockford Consolidated Plan: 2013 Action Plan was presented by Vicki Manson, Dwayne Collins, Angie Walker and Mark Williams. See slides attached.
- The following questions were addressed by staff members:
  - ☐ Question – Why do you expect the same level of funding as the previous year when everyone is talking about reductions?  
Answer – We don't find out how much money we are going to get some years until as late as June, so we have to budget to something. We have not been told how much of a cut to expect in 2014. If we do receive cuts, we will have to make budget amendments just like we did this year. We used to receive our money in January or February. This year we have still not received it, so it makes for tough operations when you are not sure how much you are going to receive.
  - ☐ Question – What is the 533 Fisher project that is budgeted for \$250,000?  
Answer – That is a project that was begun with Neighborhood Stabilization funds. It is a six unit property that is being rehabilitated. The original partner that started the rehabilitation filed bankruptcy, so we had to utilize some additional HOME funds to help make that possible. It will be made available to lower income people.
  - ☐ Question – It says projected units zero.  
Answer – We counted it last year so we didn't want to double count it. It is complete and it is fully occupied.
  - ☐ Question – Under CHDO Operating, you have \$40,996 and then an estimated carryover of \$6,500 but the total is still \$40,996. Is that correct? Do you not add the carryover into that?  
Answer – In some cases, when money is carried over from a previous program year, we do not put it back into the same line item.
  - ☐ Question – If you look at the top, Unobligated Carryover for Rehabilitation Services, you are showing it as carryover and including it in the budget. Maybe the question is, how much is available for CHDO?  
Answer – The amount that is available for CHDO Operating is \$40,996 right now but there is money below for actual projects, \$328,163.00.

- Question – So is the \$6,500 included in that number then?

Answer – When we carryover money it could be carried over on the same line item or it can be used for a different line item. The next column says Carryover Reprogrammed and it is a \$0 there. It was probably reprogrammed to the Focus Area Rehabilitation program. CHDO Operating can only be 5% of our grant amount.
- Question – Where are the demolition dollars on this budget?

Answer – They would be in the first section about half way down the page.
- Question – CDBG dollars are primarily for job creation. A project that has to create employment, is that true?

Answer – It is one of the goals and objectives of HUD but their goal and objective is also decent, safe and affordable housing.
- Question – So in the process of doing a project, if you are hiring sub-contractors to do the project then that creates employment?

Answer – It could, if they hired new employees. Commonly the people that do rehabilitations on housing have to be licensed by the state for lead based paint so we have three contractors with one new contractor that are licensed. They are small companies with not a lot of employees. They don't usually hire new employees when they do our work because they can't afford to. If we had more jobs to do, that would certainly be an option. The confusion may be between CDBG and CSBG in terms of economic development dollars. Economic development dollars under CSBG have to go for job creation.
- Question – From past experience, how much input do you expect from City Council regarding the way funds are allocated on this spreadsheet?

Answer – One of the things we try to do is schedule 1 on 1 meetings with the alderman that are most affected by this program. What I mean by that is not every alderman would have a ward that is considered low income. We try to have 1 on 1 meetings with the alderman with low income wards and any other alderman that is interested in knowing more about our programs. We try to do that from September 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>. It is really important this year because we have so many new alderman.

### **III. Schedule of Continuation of Process**

- We are having the Public Hearings today. The purpose of these meetings is to give the public a broader understanding of the three programs and their eligible use of funds, to explain what funds we have received in the past and the status of where we are today and for the public to provide us input and suggestions as we move through the process of drafting a plan for 2014. Over the next few weeks, we will draft a plan to submit to the City. The draft action plan will be available for public viewing for thirty days. The plan will go through the City of Rockford process and approval and must be submitted to HUD by November 15.

Respectfully submitted by,  
 Susan Diehl  
 Community Development Department,  
 Sr. Office Assistant